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From the Ambassador's Desk

March 2015

Versão Portuguesa

PHOTO HIGHLIGHT



From our [Facebook](#) post:
"Iberian Suite: Global Arts Remix"
at the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

>> [From Ambassador Robert A. Sherman](#)



Happy Easter to everyone! I just returned from the United States where I had the opportunity to meet with Luso-American communities in New England and with several elected representatives to share views on my first year as Ambassador of the United States in Lisbon. I welcome your feedback on Embassy programs and initiatives also via the Embassy's Facebook or Twitter page. In Washington, D.C. I had the opportunity to be part of the Iberian Suite festival at the Kennedy Center, joining hundreds of thousands of Americans and tourists from every corner of the world for just a small, but very well presented taste of Portugal, including a life-size cork streetcar! This exhibit effectively showcased much of what I've learned is so great about Portugal's culture, art, music, cuisine and people. I also joined the Select USA summit, which helped pair delegations of Portuguese and U.S. investors together, looking for ways to strengthen the economic bonds between our two countries.

Back here in Lisbon, the Embassy has once again been very busy. To celebrate International Women's Day, together with Católica University, we organized a day-long series of practical workshops for female entrepreneurs as part of the Connect to Success initiative, which also brought in participants of the initiative's MBA consulting and corporate mentoring programs. We also wrapped up the regional spelling bee events, the winners of which are now expected in Lisbon for the grand finale on May 9. In March we partnered with Fulbright and the American Corners to host a U.S. pavilion and the second annual U.S. college and university fair in Portugal, which culminated on the final day of Futurália, Portugal's biggest study and employment fair for young people. We met with thousands of young people from across the country to talk about study in the United States. I also recently joined members of the Fulbright board to celebrate 55 years of the Fulbright program in Portugal, which was also just solidified with the signing of a renewed agreement on the Fulbright program between our two countries. And not to forget, we welcomed Deputy Assistant Trade Representative Christina Sevilla in February to join me in helping to highlight the benefits that the TTIP agreement will bring to both Portugal and the United States.

As the weather gets warmer in the coming months, I plan to continue my travels around Portugal to promote the great opportunities that exist for companies on both sides of the Atlantic, and hopefully bringing my road trips closer to you! Ate ja!

FEATURE STORY

>> [U.S. Supports Internet Freedom](#)



The U.S. government has been a longstanding supporter of internet freedom and seeks to ensure that the internet remains free of undue restrictions and censorship. The Embassy highlights the recent order of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that aims to maintain "net neutrality." A series of measures under the order are meant to facilitate transparency of the internet and ban restrictive business practices, such as blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization of internet content. In explaining the order, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler asserted, "while some other countries try to control the internet, the action that we take today is an irrefutable reflection of the principle that no one, whether government or corporate, should control free and open access to the internet." As a proponent of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum and an active member of the Freedom Online Coalition, the United States aims to promote coordinated efforts among many likeminded foreign governments and civil society groups to further internet freedom. In 2013, the State Department and USAID committed \$25 million to support groups that aim to improve counter-censorship and secure communications technology, offer digital safety training, and promote policy and research programs for people facing Internet repression. This is in addition to the U.S. government's investment of over \$100 million in innovative internet freedom programs globally. Portugal has proven to be an eager partner with the United States on internet governance issues and has offered to advocate for U.S. policies across various multilateral platforms.

[Learn more about Internet freedom>>](#)

LATEST STORIES

>> **2014/2015 Spelling Bee in Portugal Finishes with a Grand Finale on May 9**

The Embassy, in partnership with APPI-Associação Portuguesa de Professores de Inglês, Fulbright, and the American Corners, have hosted regional events of the national Spelling Bee competition in the cities of Aveiro, Braga, Faro, Guarda, Lisbon, Funchal, Porto, Ponta Delgada, Angra do Heroísmo and Caparica since the beginning of this academic year 2014/2015 in an effort to identify the best spellers in English in the country. The invitation went to 9th and 10th grade students from all public schools around the country and schools from nearly all of Portugal's school districts sent teams to participate in the events. The final Spelling Bee event, which will bring together the finalists and winners of all of the regional events, will take place on May 9 at the American Corner@Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon in what will likely be a very competitive event with exciting prizes awaiting the national champion. We are very grateful to the many volunteers, our contacts and alumni at all the venues where the events took place. Without their help, these events would not have been possible. The national Spelling Bee champion will be announced in the next newsletter edition.

>> **Study in the USA Promoted at Futurália 2015 Education Fair in Lisbon** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Embassy Offers Connect to Success Workshops for Women Entrepreneurs at Católica Lisbon** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Embassy Launches Connect to Success MBA/Masters Consulting** [Read more>>](#)

>> **International Women's Day Celebration** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Ambassador Delivers Remarks on U.S. Foreign Policy at ISCTE-IUL** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Portuguese Arts and Culture Highlighted at “Iberian Suite” Festival on March 3-24 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC**

U.S. Ambassador Robert Sherman and wife Kim Sawyer **visited** the festival “[IBERIAN SUITE: global arts remix](#)” held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, March 3-24. The festival highlighted cultures that comprise the Portuguese and Spanish speaking peoples with music, dance, and theater performances; art installations; culinary and film programs, and more. [Read more>>](#)

>> **DAS Julieta Noyes in Lisbon** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Exhibition “Sonnabend | Paris – New York” in Lisbon** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Rep Christina Sevilla in Lisbon** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Writer Patricia Portela Encourages Students to Read** [Read more>>](#)

>> **Two Alumni-Led Community Services Projects from Portugal are Finalists at Worldwide Grant Competition**

Two alumni-led community service projects from Portugal for the 2015 Alumni Innovation Engagement Fund (AEIF) grant competition were selected as finalists on March 10, out of 833 submitted proposals from 135 countries! Pretty Woman,” led by Mara Sousa (Summer Institutes for European Student Leaders, 2014), is a program that empowers female sex workers in Portugal toward a better life by providing them with the right opportunities for self-sufficiency through a dignified job. “Pen Friends 2084,” led by Patrícia Portela (International Writing Program, 2013), is a program that promotes intercultural dialogue among high school students in Portugal and the rest of the world through the collaborative process of writing of a novel. The interaction between teenagers from various countries and writers will address the importance of the word as a way of discovery of the other. The alumni teams asked fellow alumni to vote for their projects on alumni.state.gov in order to win. The winners of the competition will be announced on May 11.

UPCOMING EVENTS

>> **25 Years of Discoveries with the Hubble Space Telescope**

April 8
American Corner, FCT, NOVA University
Talk by Cristina Oliveira (Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland)
<http://bibliotecaunl.blogspot.pt/search/label/Ano%20Int.%20Luz>

>> **Sonnabend Paris-New York Exhibition**

Until May 3
Works by American post-war artists: Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, and others
Arpad-Szenes Vieira da Silva Museum
<http://fasvs.pt/>

>> **English Spelling Bee Grand Finale**

May 9@ 10:00 a.m.
American Corner, Instituto Superior Técnico

>> **Cine Clube film screenings at American Corner, FCT, NOVA University**

The Fly on April 21 @5:00 p.m.; *Fahrenheit 451* on May 19@5:00 p.m.
American Corner, FCT, NOVA University (Library Auditorium)
<http://bibliotecaunl.blogspot.pt/search/label/Cineclube%202015>

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